(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of good quality all weather road works cleared during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) It is presumed that Hon'ble MP is referring to the ongoing National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which includes Golden Quadrilateral, North South and East-West Corridors.

No, Sir. There is no cut in allocation of the fund. The fund allocation for the NHDP is being released by the Government commensurate with the work progress.

(c) Allahabad Bypass Contract-II from km 158 to km 198 of NH-2 has been awarded under the NHDP during the year 2004-2005 so far.

Trilateral highway project

2505. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started on a trilateral highway project linking India with Thailand Burma,

(b) if so, the progress on the proposed project so far; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of the project and whether Government of Burma and Thailand would contribute to the said project and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The Foreign Ministers of India, Myanmar and Thailand met in April, 2002 at Yangoon (Myanmar) and agreed, *inter-alia*, for construction of a highways from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar linking India, Myanmar and Thailand and also to establish Technical and Financial Task Forces. The last meeting of the Task Forces was held at New Delhi during December 2003, which was followed by a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the three countries. Various Technical and

Financial issues including the sharing of the project costs were discussed during these meetings The total cost of the project for three phases has been assessed as US $700 million However, there has been no further progress The implementation of the project has not started

Coastal highways in Gujarat

2506 SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports, all sections of the coastal highway along this coast have not been upgraded to National Highways,

(b) if so, the reasons for the same,

(c) whether Government accept the necessity of upgrading the coastal highways of Gujarat, and

(d) if so, within what time frame is the upgradation planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K H MUNIYAPPA) (a) to (d) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, *inter-se* priority on all India basis and availability of resources Notwithstanding the above, a length of approximately 732 kilometer running along the coast line in Gujarat has already been converted into National Highways This includes 370 kilometer declared as National Highways in February 2004

Pradhan Mantri Bharat Joro Pariyojana

†2507 SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to connect the capital cities of all the States through NHDP a four lane Highways would be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Joro Priyojana,

(b) whether it is a fact that NHDP road passes through Muzaffarpur North to Patna, and in the South the Golden Quadrilateral road passes through Bodhgaya, and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi